



CHAYAT HASHAVUA: GOAT

CAN ANYONE TEACH US SOME OF THE HEBREW NAMES FOR THE GOAT?

- The most common Hebrew name for the goat is *aiz* (pl., *izim*), which is probably related to the word *oz*, meaning strength.
- Another name for young male goats is *atoodim*, which comes from the word *atad*, meaning “to be ready.”

IN THE BIBLE IT SAYS “YOU SHALL NOT BOIL A KID IN THE MILK OF ITS MOTHER.” (Exodus 23:19)

- Can anyone teach us what that means?
- Why wouldn’t we want to take milk from a mother goat and then boil her kid in the milk?
- The Rabbis taught that this mitzvah, this commandment, meant that we should not mix dairy and meat products when we cook and eat, which is one of the rules of keeping kosher.
- Can anyone teach us the reason for the rule to not mix dairy and meat products? (One possibility: To remind us whenever we eat that if we are going to consider the feelings of animals, all the more so we should take care of the feelings of other *people*.)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT GOATS THAT MAKE THEM LIKEABLE?

- They’re friendly and make good pets.
- Their meat is good to eat and their milk is good to drink.
- They’re kosher.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT MAKE GOATS NOT VERY LIKEABLE?

- They can make a lot of mischief and be very destructive.
- They smell bad!

OKAY, IT’S TIME FOR THE GOAT QUIZ.

- How many different goat breeds are there in the world? (About 600.)
- What do we call an adult male goat? (Buck or billy.)
- What do we call an adult female goat? (Doe or nanny.)
- What do we call a goat that is less than one year old? (A kid!)

- What are some of the useful things produced by goats? (Meat, milk, cheese, and wool.)
- How much do the smallest goats weigh and how much do the biggest goats weigh? (20 and 300 pounds.)
- Is goat meat kosher and, if so, why? (Yes, because the goat has a split hoof and chews its cud.)
- Can anyone teach us what parts of the goat were used in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem? I'll give you a hint: It's something *not* below a goat's neck. (The shofar sounded on Rosh Hashanah was made from the horns of a wild goat.)

ONE OF THE TEACHINGS FROM OUR TRADITION IS ABOUT THE KIND OF ANIMALS THAT WERE BROUGHT FOR SACRIFICES IN THE ANCIENT TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM?

- Does anyone know why the people were commanded to bring sacrifices then? (The animals represented certain things about themselves that they needed to change—bad behavior, like stealing or not being kind.)
- Rabbi Judah bar Simon, who lived very long ago, taught: A bull is pursued by the lion, a lamb is pursued by the wolf, a goat is pursued by the leopard. But God said: Bring no sacrifice to Me from those who pursue, only from those who are pursued.
- What do you think Rabbi bar Simon's words are teaching us? (The bull, the lamb, and the goat are domesticated animals that we control; the lion, wolf, and leopard are wild and we don't control them—so maybe it means that we are only asked to sacrifice, or give up, those parts of ourselves that we have control over, like our bad behavior.)



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